

Message Text

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SS-15 ACDA-07 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-06 ERDA-05 DHA-02

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TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

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INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: IAEA, SA

SUBJECT: IAEA: SOUTH AFRICAN MEMBERSHIP ON BOARD OF GOVERNORS

REF: RIO DE JANEIRO 3600

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL, SOUTH AFRICA HAS COME UNDER AT;ACK IN IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE NOW MEETING IN RIO. OUTCOME OF GENERAL CONFERENCE DEBATE ON SOUTH AFRICAN CREDENTIALS UNCERTAIN AT THIS STAGE. NEVERTHELESS, IT BECOMING INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT THIS ISSUE WILL ALSO ARISE AT FIRST MEETING OF NEW BOARD OF GOVERNORS, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN RIO IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ADJOURNMENT OF GENERAL CONFERENCE. THIS MEETING NOW EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29. ADVERSE ACTION ON SOUTH AFRICAN CREDENTIALS AT GENERAL CONFERENCE WOULD NOT BE AUTOMATICALLY APPLICABLE TO BOARD OF GOVERNORS, WHICH OPERATES UNDER ITS OWN RULES. NEVERTHELESS, FOLLOWING NORMAL PROCEDURE, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IAEA WILL REPORT TO FIRST MEETING OF NEW BOARD ON STATUS OF CREDENTIALS OF MEMBERS. IT IS AT THIS STAGE THAT EFFORT IS EXPECTED TO DENY CREDENTIALS TO SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNOR, THEREBY EFFECTIVELY BARRING SOUTH AFRICA FROM PARTICIPATION IN BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

2. SHOULD ACTION BE TAKEN ON SAG AT BOARD OF GOVERNORS, US WOULD SUPPORT SOUTH AFRICA, ON GROUNDS THAT THE TERMS OF THE IAEA STATUTE, ARTICLE VI, PROVIDING FOR THE DESIGNATION AS A BOARD MEMBER OF "THE MOST ADVANCED IN THE TECHNOLOGY OF ATOMIC ENERGY INCLUDING THE PRODUCTION OF SOURCE MATERIALS" SHOULD BE COMPLIED WITH. IN THE ABSENCE OF A CHALLENGE SUPPORTED BY OBJECTIVE DATA TO THE CONTRARY, SOUTH AFRICA IS THE BEST QUALIFIED STATE IN AFRICA TO MEET THIS CRITERIA. FURTHERMORE, AN ATTACK ON THE CREDENTIALS OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNOR, PROVIDED THE CREDENTIALS MEET THE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE AGENCY, WOULD CONSTITUTE A POLITICALLY MOTIVATED USE OF THE CREDENTIALS PROCEDURE TO THWART SOUTH AFRICA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

THERE CAN BE LITTLE DOUBT THAT IT GOVERNS THE STATE OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN IAEA GOVERNOR IS A LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF IT.

3. THE US VIEWS WITH DEEP CONCERN THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING SOUTH AFRICAN CREDENTIALS REJECTED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OR THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS. OUR CONCERN RELATES TO THE LIKELY ADVERSE IMPACT ON OUR GOALS CONCERNING NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND THE MAINTENANCE OF EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARDS.

4. WE BELIEVE MOST GOVERNMENTS WILL SHARE WITH US THE OBJECTIVE OF AVOIDING COMPLICATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH THE SECRETARY IS NOW PURSUING AND WHICH THE MOST RECENT NEWS FROM THE AREA DEMONSTRATES TO BE MAKING SIGNIFICANT HEADWAY.

5. THE US HAS URGED SAG TO RATIFY THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY IN ORDER TO BRING ALL OF SAG NUCLEAR FACILITIES UNDER INTERNATIONAL (IAEA) SAFEGUARDS. WE BELIEVE THESE STEPS TO BE VITAL IN ORDER TO INSURE THAT THESE FACILITIES, WHICH INCORPORATE WEAPON MAKING POTENTIAL, ARE NOT UTILIZED FOR NON-PEACEFUL PURPOSES. WE HAVE ENGAGED IN AN ACTIVE EFFORT TO GET SOUTH AFRICA TO RATIFY THE NPT. THESE EFFORTS HAVE NOT YET SUCCEEDED, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT EXTRA-LEGAL ACTIONS TO THWART SAG'S IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEMBERSHIP, SUCH AS A DENIAL OF CREDENTIALS, WOULD CONSTITUTE A SERIOUS, PERHAPS EVEN FATAL, OBSTACLE TO ITS RATIFICATION OF THE NPT. IT WOULD ALSO PROBABLY PREVENT SAG FROM CARRYING THROUGH ON ITS RECENT NOTIFICATION TO THE IAEA OF WILLINGNESS TO HAVE IAEA SAFEGUARDS APPLIED, UNDER A UNILATERAL AGREEMENT, TO A COMMERCIAL ENRICHMENT

PLANT WHICH IS TO BE ERECTED IN SOUTH AFRICA. IN SHORT, A DENIAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN CREDENTIALS WOULD PLACE IN JEOPARDY THE REALIZATION OF OUR HOPES TO HAVE SOUTH AFRICA ADHERE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE NPT AND PLACE ALL SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR FACILITIES UNDER IAEA SAFEGUARDS.

6. IN OPPOSING AN ATTACK UPON SOUTH AFRICA, WE WISH IT UNDERSTOOD THAT WE HAVE NOT LESSENEED OUR LONG-STANDING ABHORRENCE OF THE INTERNAL RACIAL POLICIES OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS REPEATEDLY WARNED THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT THAT TIME IS GROWING SHORT FOR THE REALIZATION OF A PEACEFUL END TO INSTITUTIONALIZED INEQUALITY IN SOUTH AFRICA AND HAS URGED THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO WORK FORCEFULLY AND ENERGETICALLY FOR THE EARLY REALIZATION OF THIS OBJECTIVE.

7. ACTION ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO INFORM HOST GOVERNMENTS THAT ARE PRESENT OR INCOMING MEMBERS OF THE IAEA

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE US POSITION ON THIS QUESTION AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE AND SEEK THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT
FOR CONTINUED SAG PARTICIPATION ON THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS.
PLEASE REPORT RESPONSES.

8. AFRICAN CAPITALS SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT IAEA SAFEGUARDS
PERFORM A SECURITY FUNCTION, PRECLUDING A COUNTRY WHOSE
NUCLEAR FACILITIES ARE UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION FROM
DIVERTING NUCLEAR MATERIAL FROM PEACEFUL PURPOSES WITHOUT
DETECTION. ANY ACTION DENYING SAG MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD
OF GOVERNORS ON POLITICAL GROUNDS, COULD THUS PROVE
DIRECTLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO VITAL AFRICAN INTERESTS.

9. MALAYSIA, PORTUGAL, AND EGYPT ARE ALL UNOP-
POSED FOR ELECTION TO THE NEW BOARD OF GOVERNORS BY THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE NOW MEETING. THESE ACTION ADDRESSEES,
THEREFORE, SHOULD, AS SUGGESTED REFTTEL, PHRASE DEMARCHES
IN TERMS OF THEIR ANTICIPATED MEMBERSHIP ON THE BOARD.

10. FOR LISBON. RECOGNIZE SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED
IN MAKING FOREGOING APPROACH. REQUEST EMBASSY INFORM DEPT
(,NFO RIO) SOONEST IF IT PERCEIVES OVERRIDING OBJECTION TO
APPROACHING FONOFF ON THIS SUBJECT.

11 FOR PANAMA: THIS MESSAGE FOR INFO ONLY, SINCE DEPT.
SEES NO USEFUL PURPOSE SERVED BY DEMARCHE AT THIS TIME.
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